

The President. We're here to talk about what's going to be in the bill. I want to pass a bill early this year, as early as we can, and we're going to talk about that.

There was a good bill last year—it had a lot of good features in it—which was vetoed by President Bush. And I guess we'll start talking about that and see where we go from there. But I hope we can get a good bill.

In terms of when it goes into effect, and the last bill skipped an election cycle and was widely applauded by all the public interest groups as a great advance over where we are now. I think when it goes into effect is a subject of discussion here. But I want to pass a good bill. That's my concern.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:49 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Letter to Federal Emergency Management Agency Acting Director William C. Tidball on Disaster Assistance for California
February 3, 1993

Dear Mr. Tidball:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of California, resulting from severe winter storms, mud and rock slides, and flooding on January 5–22, 1993, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (“the Stafford Act”). I, therefore, declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of California.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance and Public Assistance in the designated areas. Consistent with the require-

ment that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This letter was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release.

Letter to Governor Pete Wilson on Disaster Assistance for California
February 3, 1993

Dear Governor Wilson:

As requested, I have declared a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Stafford Act) for the State of California due to damage resulting from severe winter storms, mud and rock slides, and flooding on January 5–22, 1993. I have authorized Federal relief and recovery assistance in the affected area.

Individual Assistance and Public Assistance will be provided. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs in the designated areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) will coordinate Federal assistance efforts and designate specific areas eligible for such assistance. The Federal Coordinating Officer will be Mr. Frank Kishton of FEMA. He will consult with you and assist in the execution of the FEMA-State Disaster Assistance Agreement governing the expenditure of Federal Funds.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton